

MGF 006-81

7 April 1981

Memorandum for : Director, FBIS  
Through : Chief, Operations Group  
Subject : Monthly Report-Gulf Bureau-March 1981

## I. GENERAL

Interviews at mid-month with monitor applicants in Abu Dhabi and Dubai uncovered several very qualified prospects. Job offers were accepted by candidates speaking Arabic and Russian/Arabic. In addition, an Arabic candidate recruited by Jordan bureau has also accepted a position at Gulf. Applications for No Objection Certificates for these candidates have been submitted to the Bahraini Authorities. The new monitors will EOD over the next few months.

We have also turned up several well qualified Farsi/Dari/Pashto/Urdu candidates. Following discussions at the bureau chiefs' conference on the bureaus ultimate coverage responsibilities for Iran/Afghanistan/Pakistan job offers may be made to several of these candidates.

## II. OPERATIONS

### Editorial/Monitorial

1. Gulf Bureau provided area reaction to the assassination attempt against President Reagan. The first authoritative report monitored from Tehran, quoting Ayatollah Khomeyni, was filed from the Arabic service. Khomeyni, noting that the former regime had organized eulogy poems by Iranian schoolchildren when President Kennedy died, said that whether the attempt against Reagan is successful or not "makes no difference for there is no one who will hold eulogies for him any more." An unattributed commentary carried on the Arabic service declared that it was "no wonder" the attempt had been made by American citizen in view of the Reagan administration's policies. Other reaction was filed from Saudi, UAE, Bahraini and Gulf newspaper sources.

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2. Two new Iranian clandestine radios were added to coverage during the month. The Voice of Al-Qadisiyah, purportedly broadcasting from Ahvaz, is covered on Monday and Thursday mornings and carries essentially low-level material aimed at ethnic Arabs living in Iran. The other transmitter, the Voice of Iran, also pro-Iraq, broadcasts material critical of the Iranian regime. Coverage of the latter is currently shared with Nicosia Bureau.

3. During the month the bureau assumed the backstop role for the Tehran PARS English 0730-0930 GMT transmission. Jordan bureau had been backstopping this transmission. The agency, which has been off the air for several weeks recently because of transmitter problems, is printed with fair/good reception, providing a reliable fallback when reception is poor in London.

4. At the request of [ ] of AG, Moscow STAT Persian program summaries were expanded to include all news items broadcast on 30 and 31 March. Joan is currently completing a long-standing project on radio Moscow's international broadcasting.

5. New additional English titles have been added to the bureau's growing press scrutiny list: the Kuwait ARAB TIMES and Jidda's ARAB NEWS. We are also trying to obtain the Doha weekly GULF TIMES but have unable to locate a reliable supplier.

6. On 2 March we picked up Moscow Urdu and Beijing Urdu programs from Bangkok Bureau when the latter experienced a staffing shortage. Program summaries are wirefiled priority to Bangkok for inclusion in commentary lists compiled there and sent to London and Okinawa. The coverage shift was accommodated by using our part-time Urdu monitor and switching Persian/Urdu trainee Salma Hussain from strictly Persian monitoring to Urdu.

7. Four takes of "details" of Pakistan's new Provisional Constitution Order were filed from Karachi Domestic Service in English when reception at Bangkok was unmonitorable. We had been backstopping the service at Bangkok's request during their staffing shortage. The order, which was also poorly heard here, has been interpreted as an attempt by General Zia to curtail participation by opposition parties in any future elections.

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### III. COMMUNICATIONS

The Bureau's TELEX system was installed and tested successfully on 1 March. The system will be used as a backup for the bureau's normal communications via TCU in the American Embassy Manama. Our country code (via Cable & Wireless only) is 0490; TELEX number is 9517; answerback: FBGULF BN.



STAT

Bureau Chief